



The first A.M.I.E.CO Conference welcomes nearly 300 delegates

Aruban Medical Innovation and Education Conferences, A.M.I.E. CO conducted their first symposium for health care professionals on April 20 and 21 at the Radisson Aruba Resort and Casino. The organizers and board of A.M.I.E CO expressed great satisfaction that attendance was “far beyond expectations,” and retired Pediatrician Dr. Robert Bryson commented that it was “the best attended medical conference in Aruba that I have ever seen.” This first conference is devoted to “Trauma Care” and its various aspects, such as the ABC of Trauma Care, (Airway, Breathing and Cervical Spine) Ethical Dilemmas, Trauma in Children, and how to handle drowning victims, a prime concern for an island environment.

Participants traveled from a number of countries and islands to attend lectures and workshops by specialists from Holland, Aruba, and the United States. An exhibition room with booths from the various sponsors allowed them to examine the latest in diagnostic equipment and emergency care materials. On Saturday a “hands on” session with a state of the art “SIM MAN,” from Alternative Exports of Florida ended the conference and allowed those attending to see how the newest practice dummies can simulate almost any ailment. A demonstrated showed how computer feeds to various parts of the SIM MAN allowed for students to perform actual procedures, and readouts simultaneously inform if they are being done correctly or not. Ken Clark, an EMT with Valero Refinery reported that he found such demonstrations “remarkably enlightening...as is the entire conference.”

Doctors from Aruba conducting lectures included Dr. Osvaldo Anaya, Dr. Benjamin Croes, Dr. Riet van der Griendt-Odijk, Dr. Gregory Lacle, Dr. Alex Ponson, Dr. Israel Posner, Dr. Emile Weststrate and Dr. Elisabeth Zwanikken. Lecturers from Holland included Dr. Gerard Stapper, Radiologist, Dr. Tom P.H. Van Thiel, Trauma Surgeon, Prof Dr. Andre van Zundert PhD, Dr. Miriam Dielis, and medical specialists Victor Hakkenberg van Gaasbeek and Vera Meeusen. Other specialists giving lectures and demonstrations were Ruben Croes, May-Jane Werleman, and Marcel Stomphorst of Aruba, and Johanna ten Hulscher of the Level One Trauma Center of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Dr. Riet van der Griendt-Okijk, Anesthesiologist, acted as host on behalf of Aruba’s Horacio E. Oduber hospital and staff in greeting all the delegates at the welcome address. Her closing remarks on Saturday afternoon noted, “One of the most interesting discoveries of the conference is that no matter where the delegates practice, the United States, Holland, or Aruba, we all face the same dilemmas in executing our duties, particularly in regard to mass trauma incidents. Multi-car accidents or natural disasters put a strain on resources such as equipment personnel and hospital beds. A very positive result of this conference is that we now have established networks and communication to work on these problems and assist each other in finding solutions. We are very gratified at the international interest and attendance for this first time effort of A.M.I.E.CO.”

The A.M.I.E. CO committee consists of Esther Mennen, Cecile Wagenaar, Dr Esther Wiering, Ruthmila Cores, Guylaine Marugg, Marja de Jong and Marisol Brouwer of the staff of the Dr. Horacio. E. Oduber Hospital.